

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/654,436

Applicant(s)

TAKURA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Jung W Kim

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 25 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-10,17-19,26,27,34,35 and 37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/26/04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 have been examined. Applicant amended claims 8, 17, 26, 27, 34 and 37, and canceled claims 1-7, 11-16, 20-25, 28-33 and 36.

Response to Amendment

2. The objections to the specification is withdrawn as the amendments to the disclosure overcome the objections.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks on pgs. 14-16, filed October 25, 2004, with respect to claims 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 has been fully considered and are persuasive, specifically that even though the Schneier reference teaches secret splitting which divides sensitive information to a plurality of holders, and further teaches timestamping received hash values by appending a timestamp to the received hash then digitally signing the result, Schneier does not disclose how to make the independently acquired times from each of the time acquisition times coincide (see Remarks, pg. 15, 1st full paragraph, 3rd-5th sentences). The 103 rejections to claims 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 are drawn to a timestamping system. The closest prior art Haber, Rohatgi and Schneier teach methods of timestamping similar to the instant claimed invention, except none of Haber, Rohatgi nor Schneier teach steps nor means to:
 - a. sequentially acquire a time information given in a prescribed constant incremental time unit, in response to a received digital document, at each one of a plurality of time acquisition units in the server device, independently from other time acquisition units;
 - b. generate a plurality of time stamped digital documents at each one of a plurality of combining units, provided in correspondence to the plurality of time acquisition units in the server device, by sequentially combining the received digital document with the time information sequentially acquired by a corresponding one of the time acquisition units, independently from other combining units;
 - c. generate a digital signature at each one of a plurality of digital signature units, provided in correspondence to the plurality of combining units in the server device, for each time stamped digital document generated by a corresponding one of the combining units, independently from other digital signature units;

- d. select a plurality of digital signatures, one digital signature per each of the digital signature units, which are generated by the plurality of digital signature units for one time stamped digital document of an identical time, from a plurality of digital signatures generated by the plurality of digital signature units, and generating a unified digital signature from the selected digital signatures; and
 - e. generate a time stamp token from the one time stamped digital document and the unified digital signature generated.
6. These features of the independent claims render claims 8-10, 17-19, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 37 allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung W Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jung W Kim
Examiner
Art Unit 2132

Jk
January 28, 2005



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